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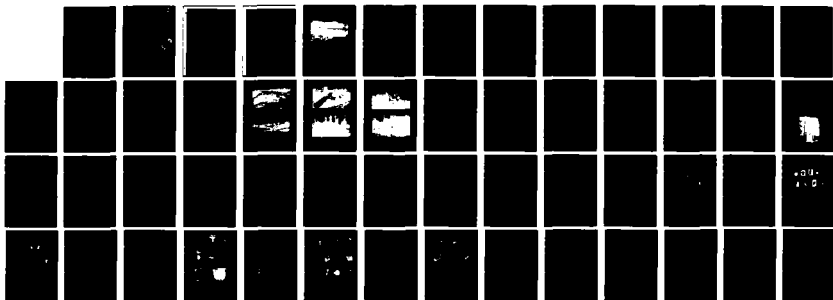
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THE RED RIVER (U) ARKANSAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY
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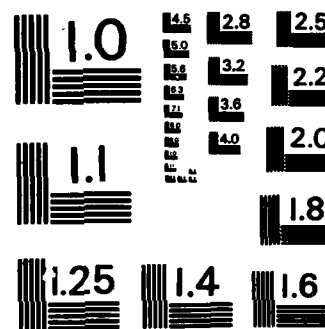
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TEST EXCAVATIONS AT 3LA128

An Early Caddo Occupation on the Red River

Neal L. Trubowitz
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P.O. Box 1249
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15 April 1982

FINAL REPORT
(Contract Number DACW29-81-M-0165)

Prepared for
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT
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20. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number) The Arkansas Archeological Survey tested site 3LA128 under Purchase Order DACW29-81-M-0165 on the Field Revetment for the New Orleans District Office of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to gather data for determination of the site's eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. The testing identified two twentieth century occupations, a Caddo I-II component (the primary occupation), and a small Caddo IV-V component. In the opinion of the Survey, the site is eligible for the register, but no further archeological research is needed in		

connection with the Field Revetment project as construction was completed prior to the site testing. The remaining site area is no longer threatened by construction-related activities, and the revetment will safeguard it from Red River meander erosion. Site 3LA128 will be available for future archeological research on the early Caddoan occupation of the Great Bend region in Arkansas so long as the revetment exists.

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Excavations in process on test units 4 and 5 at 3LA128, looking east.

ABSTRACT

The Arkansas Archeological Survey tested site 3LA128 under Purchase Order No. DACW29-81-M-0165 on the Field Revetment for the New Orleans District Office of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to gather data for determination of the site's eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. The testing identified two twentieth century occupations, a Caddo I-II component (the primary occupation), and a small Caddo IV-V component. In the opinion of the Survey, the site is eligible for the register, but no further archeological research is needed in connection with the Field Revetment project as construction was completed prior to the site testing. The remaining site area is no longer threatened by construction-related activities, and the revetment will safeguard it from Red River meander erosion. Site 3LA128 will be available for future archeological research on the early Caddoan occupation of the Great Bend region in Arkansas so long as the revetment exists.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Abstract	11
Management Summary	iv
Acknowledgments	viii
Chapter 1: Introduction	1
Chapter 2: Summary of Field Investigations	5
Chapter 3: The Collections	23
Chapter 4: Site Significance and Recommendations	39
References	43

List of Figures:

Frontispiece	1
1. General location of 3LA128 and the Cedar Grove site (3LA97).	3
2. Finished revetment face where the main surface collections were made, looking northeast.	6
3. Truncated levee at the northeast end of 3LA128 looking east.	6
4. Vanes of collapsed windmill, looking north.	7
5. Collapsed chimney foundation, looking north-northwest.	7
6. 3LA128 site testing map.	8
7. Backhoe opening up backhoe transect #1 segment 7, looking west.	10
8. View into the woods, past collapsed windmill, along backhoe transect #6, looking east.	10
9. Profiles of the elevation of the midden surface across 3LA128.	15
10. Floor plan of test unit 1 at the surface of stratum 8, showing plow scars intrusive from stratum 7, looking southwest.	15
11. North profile of backhoe transect #1, segment 5.	18
12. North profile of backhoe transect #1, segment 1.	18
13. West profile of backhoe transect #2, segment 1.	20
14. North profile of backhoe transect #1, segment 7.	20
15. Floor plan of test unit 2.	21
16. Floor plan of test units 4 and 5.	21
17. Examples of feature profiles.	22
18. Botanical remains from 3LA128.	27
19. Projectile points from 3LA128.	29
20. Examples of bifaces from 3LA128.	30
21. Typed ceramics from 3LA128.	33
22. Typed and untyped ceramics from 3LA128.	34
23. Untyped ceramics from 3LA128.	35
24. Red River pipe fragments and untyped sherds from 3LA128.	36

List of Tables:

1. 3LA128 stratigraphic summary	13
2. 3LA128 stratigraphic columns	14
3. 3LA128 artifact provenience by strata	17
4. 3LA128 provenience artifact summary	24
5. 3LA128 pottery from the 1981 test excavations	32
6. 3LA128 pottery from the 1980 surface collection	38

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

Introduction

Although a pedestrian and boat survey had not located any sites previously (Pearson and DuCote 1979), on June 23, 1980 John Miller, archeological assistant at the Magnolia station of the Arkansas Archeological Survey, discovered site 3LA128 along a completed portion of the Field Revetment on the Red River in Lafayette County, Arkansas. Carroll Kleinhans, archeologist with the New Orleans District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers visited the site two days later in connection with other archeological testing on 3LA97 being done on the same revetment. At the request of the Corps the Survey prepared a proposal (October 9, 1980) for the data recovery of 3LA97 and testing for significance of the cultural remains at 3LA128. A Corps purchase order for the testing at 3LA128 was issued to the Survey on October 21, 1980.

Purpose of the Investigations

The primary goal of the research was to assess the archeological and historical significance of 3LA128 and gather sufficient information for determination of its potential eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. Specific data were sought on the site's horizontal and vertical limits, stratigraphy, cultural affiliation(s), presence or absence of settlement pattern features, and the kinds of archeological debris present.

Constraints on the Field Project

The overall priority for archeological research on the Field Revetment was for the data recovery on 3LA97 to be completed first so that construction could resume on the unfinished section of the revetment. Whereas construction had already impacted 3LA128 it was proposed that the testing at 3LA128 be deferred until December, 1980, while the research was being done on the direct impact zone at 3LA97. However, significant archeological discoveries in December at 3LA97 combined with several bad weather spells between October and December (which halted all work at times), delayed the start of 3LA128 testing until January 12, 1981, when the testing crew was reduced to a maximum of five people. Approximately a day and a half was lost to bad weather during the testing of 3LA128, which was completed on January 19. The field crew returned to Fayetteville on January 24 after processing the bulk of the excavated dirt and packing equipment and data for shipment.

Previous experience on 3LA97 had shown dry screening to be a difficult method of artifact recovery in the local soils, which often had a high clay content, so water screening was used to process excavated dirt. At the time of the testing the Red River was at its lowest level since the site had been discovered, and the water screens could not be placed convenient to the testing. The excavated dirt had to be trucked to a processing station at 3LA97 about a kilometer away. Due to the added time involved in trucking the soil and the small size of the field crew, some of the flotation samples could not be processed on the site and have been returned to Fayetteville for completion, which has not yet been accomplished. However, as the bulk of the soil was water screened, the lack of identification of some of the flotation samples, and chemical analyses of the soil samples that were collected, does not hinder the assessment of the site. These additional data will later appear in connection with the reporting of 3LA97.

Archeological Tests

Two shovel tests, six 2 x 2 m hand-excavated test squares, and 32 backhoe transect trenches (each about 1 x 3 m) were opened to delimit the site. These excavations and surface features form the most recent site occupation were mapped and tied into a Corps mean sea level elevation marker.

Study Results

Two twentieth century components, an early Caddo I-II (A.D. 1000-1400) component, and a small Caddo IV-V (A.D. 1500-1800) component were found on the site; the Caddo I-II occupation had the greatest extent.

Site limits. The site extended for 285 m along the revetment, roughly east to west, and went beyond the right-of-way from the edge of the revetment for about 150 m to the south, where the site was truncated by early twentieth century construction of a levee. The backhoe trenches and test excavations showed that the aboriginal occupations had once set on an old point bar that sloped off on the east and west; the deepest of the cultural deposits were less than 1.7 m below the surface. These Caddo components had been buried along with one of the twentieth century occupations by the 1927-1930 flooding of the Red River.

Settlement pattern and artifacts. "A wide variety of both aboriginal and historic debris was found including ceramics, lithics, glass, metal, and construction debris (slag, brick, mortar). A collapsed windmill, flower-lined pathway, and fallen brick chimney pile marked the most recent historic occupation. The earlier historic occupation had plowed the top of the aboriginal midden level, but had not mixed it completely. Undisturbed features of the Indian occupation including postmolds and shallow basins were found at the base of the midden. Some of these features contained diagnostic artifacts showing that they were related to the early Caddo occupation on the site.

Preservation. Although unknown parts of the original site area have been destroyed by levee and revetment construction, the area that remains was sealed by the 1927-1930 floods protecting the cultural remains still extant. Features are still present, as are delicate floral and faunal remains, and carbonized material suitable for radiocarbon dating. Although no human skeletal remains were encountered in the small test area that was opened up, the potential for deeply buried graves still remains.

Significance of the Site

Although the two modern components were not considered to be significant, both aboriginal components were concluded to be valuable resources with the potential to yield a variety of data on different problems important to archeological research in the Great Bend region of Arkansas. The Caddo I-II component is particularly significant in that previous research on this time period has had to concentrate largely on the few known mound centers. Until 3LA128 was discovered, no good example of an early Caddo habitation site had been discovered in Arkansas, placing a major constraint on research.

Thus, 3LA128 provides an important resource for studying a full range of problems on early Caddo chronology, subsistence, settlement pattern, and environmental adaptations. The site also provides significant opportunities for comparative research with 3LA97, a later Caddo site that may be related to the late Caddo occupation on 3LA128. Comparison of these two sites could provide a better understanding of how the Caddo adapted to their local environment over time.

In the opinion of the Arkansas Archeological Survey, site 3LA128 is a very significant cultural resource that is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

Recommendations

The site should be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places through the designated state and federal agencies. As construction has already been completed on the Field Revetment, and no further construction project damage by vehicle traffic across the buried site is expected, no additional archeological research is considered to be needed in connection with the Field Revetment construction project. The completed revetment, so long as it retains its integrity, will protect the site from Red River meander erosion, in essence, placing 3LA128 within a guarded archeological data bank for future research. Once the work on the Field Revetment is completed construction access roads will be closed, helping to keep out the curious traveler and potential pothunters from further disturbing this site.

Conclusion

The testing on 3LA128 has yielded evidence of a significant early Caddo occupation and a smaller late Caddo site. Together with 3LA97, these buried sites have demonstrated that the full range of Caddoan chronology is still present beneath the flood deposits of the Red River. Future archeological research should take this into account in its planning and execution.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Funding for the 3LA128 investigations was provided by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, facilitated by Mr. Thomas M. Ryan and Ms. Carroll Kleinhans, archeologists of the New Orleans District. Permission for the testing was granted by the landowner, Mr. W. H. Triplett of Lewisville, Arkansas. Mr. John Upton, representing the Red River Levee District was also helpful in making local arrangements.

In the field, project archeologist Dr. Neal Trubowitz directed the field crew including John Miller as assistant archeologist, and field assistants Don Manchester, Katherine Dinnel, and Charles Hoffman. Dr. Frank Schambach, Survey station archeologist at Magnolia, provided laboratory space on the Southern Arkansas University campus for the laboratory staff; Theresa Hoffman directed Nancy Shaw and Mr. B. Ellis in the artifact processing. Volunteer assistance was provided by Blan Ellis, Calvin Lollis, and Dirk Scarborough on one Saturday during the testing. Mr. Harold Cummings of C and C Construction Company provided excellent backhoe and bulldozer services for the testing.

The report was written by Neal Trubowitz with special analysis of the ceramics and comments on Caddoan archeology by Frank Schambach. Useful comments on the report were provided by W. Fredrick Limp, Assistant Director of the Survey. Survey photographer Pamela Ashford and John Miller photographed the artifacts which were mounted by Survey artist, Jane Kellett, who also prepared Figure 6. Other figures are by Neal Trubowitz. Gwen Hamilton typed and helped assemble the report.

Frank Rackerby, Survey Contract Administrator, provided the liaison with the Corps of Engineers. This research was done under the purview of Dr. Charles R. McGimsey III, Director of the Survey.

Chapter 1 INTRODUCTION

The discovery and testing of site 3LA128 on the Red River in Lafayette County, Arkansas, came about as a result of a chain of events spanning a year and a half. Although a cultural resources survey of the Field Revetment had been carried out in 1979 for the New Orleans District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under Contract DACW29-77-D-0272, no cultural resources were recorded in the project area. Construction of the revetment in the summer of 1980 uncovered the Cedar Grove site (3LA97), which consisted of a historic cemetery surmounting a late Caddo farmstead. The construction was diverted around this site, and the Corps of Engineers issued a purchase order (No. DACW29-80-M-1870) to the Arkansas Archeological Survey to test the site in order to gather data permitting a determination of the site's eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. While this work was underway under the Direction of Neal Trubowitz, Frank Schambach (Arkansas Archeological Survey station archeologist at Magnolia) directed his assistant John Miller to inspect completed portions of the Field Revetment to determine whether other cultural resources had been affected by the construction.

On June 23, 1980, Miller discovered this site, which he designated 3LA128, less than a kilometer east of 3LA97 on a section of the revetment where the major construction work had already been completed. This discovery was reported to the Corps of Engineers immediately, and New Orleans District Archeologist Carroll Kleinhans visited 3LA128 on June 25, 1980, in connection with her inspection of the archeological testing at 3LA97 that same week. A summary of the findings at 3LA128 was included with the testing report on 3LA97 Miller described 3LA128 as

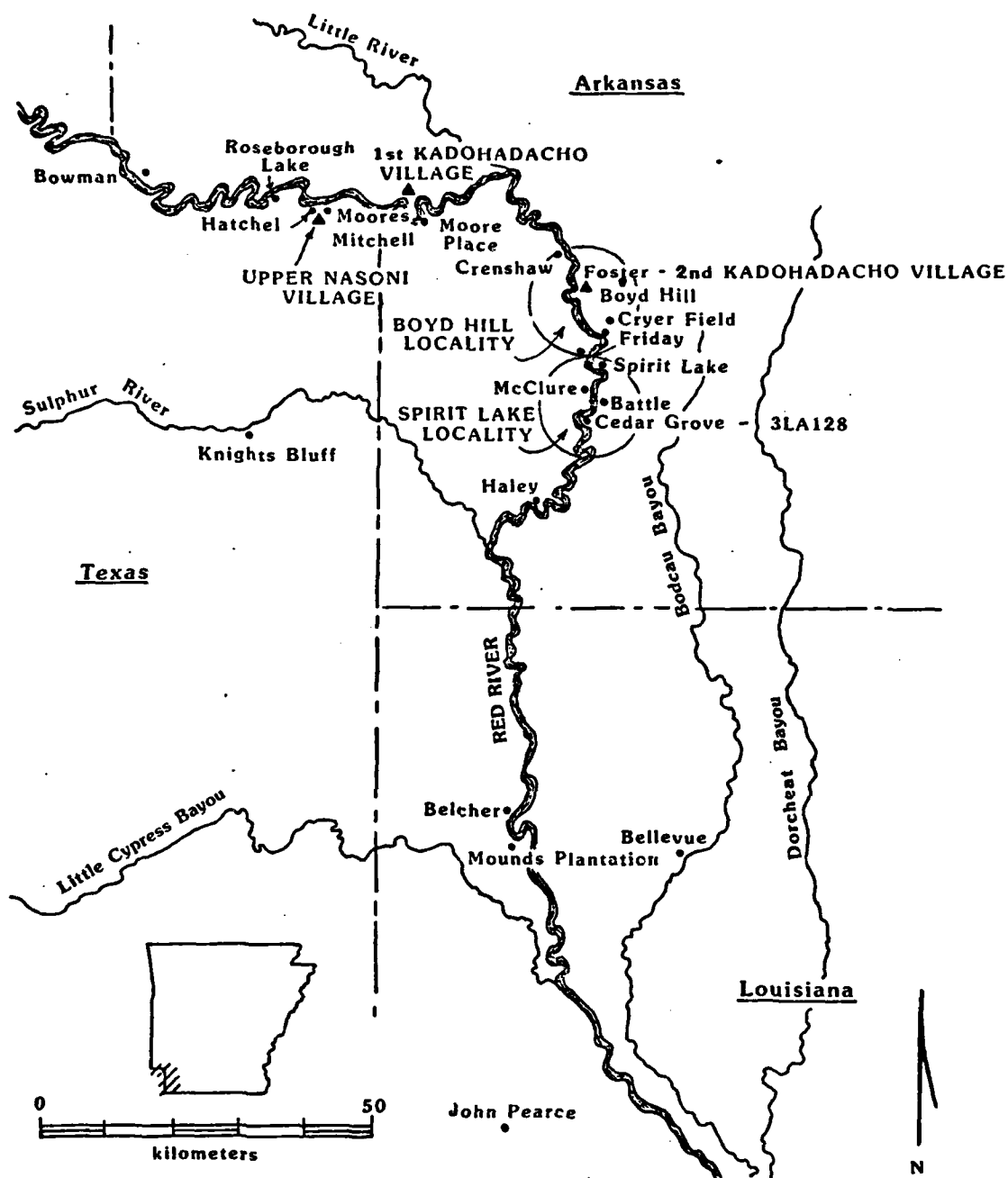
A site remnant some 1.25 m thick and over 60 m long was discovered, extending over at least a quarter acre. Although partially buried, one end of the site extended upward to present ground surface Carbonized corn cobs were eroding from the thick, black midden. Cultural material ranging from Fourche Maline to Caddo III occupations were observed. Over 500 sherds and artifacts were collected. A historic component is also present at the site.

The association of work at 3LA128 with that at 3LA97 continued into the fall. After 3LA97 was recommended as being eligible for the National Register by the Arkansas Archeological Survey and that opinion concurred with by the State Archeologist, Hester A. Davis, and the Keeper of the National Register, the Corps requested that the Survey prepare a plan for data recovery at 3LA97 and for testing to gather data sufficient for a determination of eligibility of 3LA128 for the National Register of Historic Places. The combined proposal (dated October 9, 1980) was accepted and a purchase order for the testing of 3LA128 (No. DACW29-81-M-0165) was issued on October 21, 1980. As the need to complete data recovery on 3LA97 to permit construction to resume there was more pressing, it was proposed that the work at 3LA128 be deferred to December; in fact, significant archeological discoveries at 3LA97 combined with several bad weather spells delayed the actual start of fieldwork on 3LA128 until January 12, 1981. The testing was completed on January 19 and the field crew returned to Fayetteville on January 24 after processing the bulk of the excavated dirt and packing the equipment and artifacts for shipment.

This report provides a summary of all the work completed to date on 3LA128 and recommendations as to the significance of this site and its disposition in relationship to the construction of the Field Revetment. Although summaries of the archeological background of this project area and the environmental context and recent geomorphic history of the site are normally a part of the testing report, they are not included here as the recent reports to the Corps on work at the Spirit Lake site (Hemmings 1980) and the testing at Cedar Grove (Schambach et al. 1980) contain up-to-date summaries of this information. Only a brief statement will be made here on the specifics of 3LA128.

Archeological Background

Like Cedar Grove, 3LA128 is within the Great Bend archeological region (Figure 1), part of the Caddo area of the Trans-Mississippi South. "The archeological sequence for the Great Bend region or major portions thereof has been reviewed in recent years by Hoffman (1970, 1971); Davis (1970); Webb and Gregory (1978); Schambach (1979) and Hemmings (1980)" (Schambach 1980:10).



ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES IN THE GREAT BEND REGION

Figure 1. General location of 3LA128 and the Cedar Grove site (3LA97).

Environmental Context

Again, as with Cedar Grove, 3LA128 was buried by the flooding of the Red River between 1927 and 1930. The floodplain of the Red River prior to Euramerican settlement was primarily a bottomland hardwood forest, broken by swamps, oxbow lakes, and prairie openings. Early exploration accounts of the area provide a picture of a rich Austroriparian fauna, as is typical of such areas in the Southeast.

Comparison of General Land Office maps with more recent U.S. Geological Survey quadrangles show that in 1842, 3LA128 was within a bend of the Red River (called Lester Bend), nearer to its axis than 3LA97. The aboriginal occupants of 3LA97 and 3LA128 probably situated their settlements on top of what were then point bar ridges. These ridges provided advantageously elevated terrain that allowed optimum access to good agricultural soils and the entire cross section of different wild plants and animals. Since 1842 Lester Bend has continually migrated to the south, coming to its present channel directly north of 3LA97 and 3LA128, where it has been stabilized by the construction of the Field Revetment, and will not erode any further.

Chapter 2 SUMMARY OF FIELD INVESTIGATIONS

Site Condition

When fieldwork began on 3LA128 on January 12, 1981, the site was overgrown and little was visible on the surface. The revetment face had been finished and seeded since the site was discovered the previous June (Figure 2). Beyond the rutted dirt road that follows the edge of the revetment the site was covered with mixed hardwoods, including pecan and bois d'arc (Osage orange). The right-of-way limit had been cleared through the woods, with the outer trees marked with yellow paint; one had a metal tag (T.B.M. 63+63.7) affixed to it giving the elevation above sea level as 266.66 feet (69.1 m).

Although the ground surface in the woods was obscured by dead vegetation, several historic features were apparent. The far east side of the site was bounded by an abandoned levee remnant that had been truncated by the revetment construction (Figure 3). Scattered pieces of metal and bottles, a metal windmill (Figure 4), and a brick pile (Figure 5) marked the former location of a homestead area west of the small levee. There was evidence that someone had visited 3LA128, digging many small holes into the humus zone, sometime after Miller discovered the site in June 1980. This was probably someone using a metal detector to search for historic artifacts such as bottles or coins, rather than aboriginal remains, as many of the holes had had rusted metal fragments dug out of them and they were too shallow to have disturbed the aboriginal components.



Figure 2. Finished revetment face where the main surface collections were made, looking northeast.



Figure 3. Truncated levee at the northeast end of 3LA128, looking east.



Figure 4. Vanes of collapsed windmill, looking north.



Figure 5. Collapsed chimney foundation, looking north-northwest.
Note collapsed windmill struts to the right rear.



Figure 7. Backhoe opening up backhoe transect #1 segment 7, looking west.



Figure 8. View into the woods, past collapsed windmill, along backhoe transect #6, looking east. Note open trench in foreground.

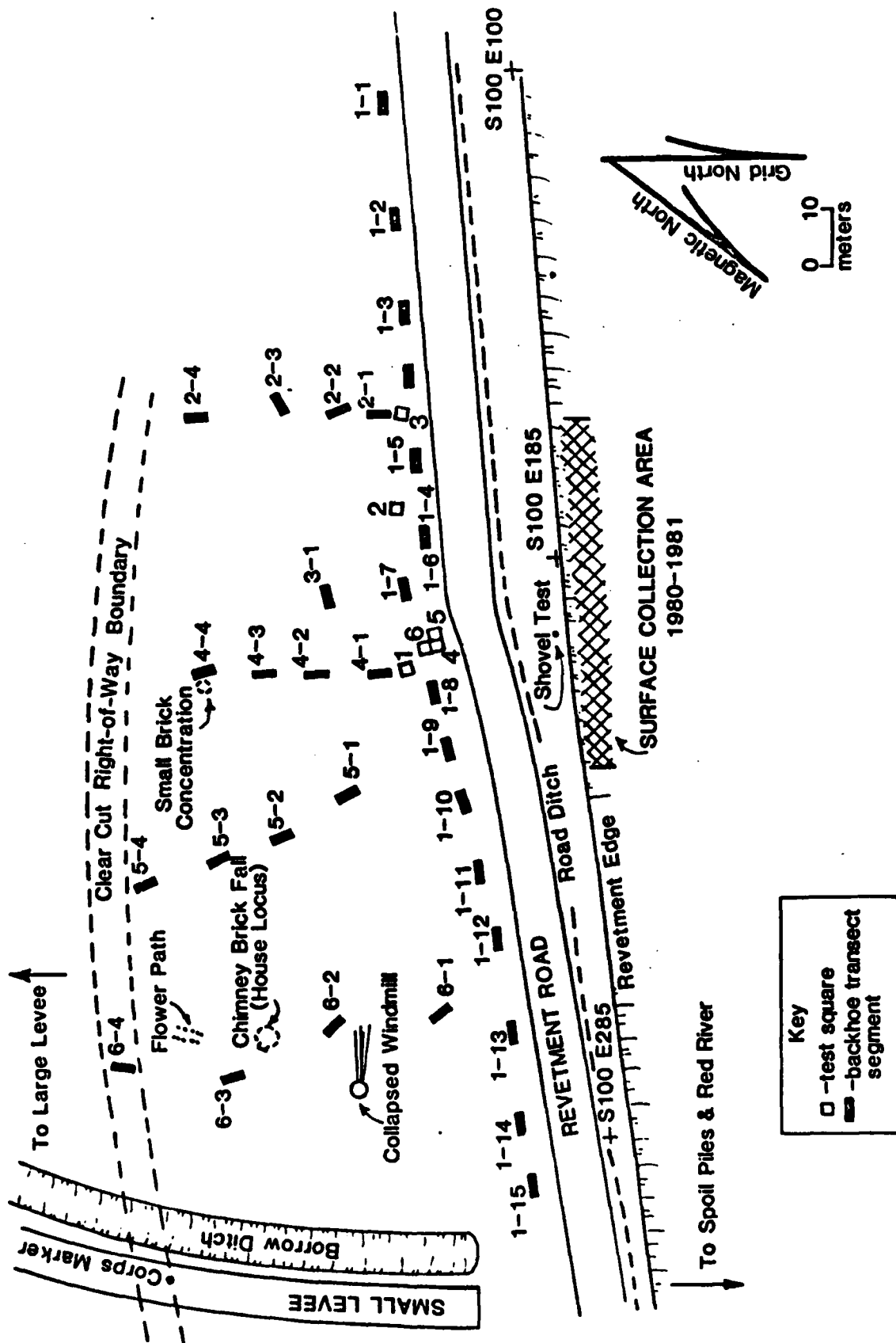


Figure 6. 3LA128 site testing map. East-west site limits run between backhoe transect segments 1-1 and 1-15. North-south site limits go from the revetment edge to beyond the right-of-way boundary.

Methodology

A variety of testing techniques were utilized to investigate the nature and distribution of cultural remains on 3LA128 (Figure 6). Due to the overgrown condition of the site, and based on our experience with the buried deposits at 3LA97, some of the techniques originally proposed for site investigation (surface collection along the revetment edge, shovel testing, and the digging of a distribution of column samples--50 cm square) were not practical. Only small surface collections were made on the revetted bank and on the spoil piles opposite it. Two shovel tests were excavated by hand, but due to the thickness of the overburden on most of the site these small tests and column samples were not cost efficient or sufficiently data productive within the time frame available for the testing. Probing for features was attempted, but the ground was too hard for productive results with this method.

The bulk of the site distribution tests were carried out in a single day with a hired backhoe (Figure 7). A total of 32 trenches, each roughly 3 m long and 1 m wide, were dug across the site in six transects (Figure 6). The maximum depth of excavation in these trenches was 1.7 m below the surface. Transect 1 (15 tests) ran roughly grid west to east, while the other five transects (each with four tests except for Transect 3 with only a single trench) were run from grid north, south to the edge of the project right-of-way. Within the woods the trench placement was somewhat dependent on where the backhoe had access and could be positioned without damaging too much of the vegetation (Figure 8), so the orientation of the trenches in Transects 2 through 6 varied.

As the trenches were dug, the crew followed along, first cleaning one wall profile per trench, then marking the locations of any artifacts found in situ, and then drawing and photographing the profiles. Soil descriptions were made, soil samples were collected, and the artifacts were then pulled from the profiles. This digging and recording operation took three days.

On the basis of the backhoe trench profiles several areas on the site were selected for hand excavation of test units to search for any evidence pertaining to settlement pattern and to collect artifact samples. The overburden was removed with the backhoe down to just above the uppermost Euramerican or aboriginal occupation levels in nearby test trenches. Five 2 m test squares were opened in these cleared areas. A sixth square (Test Unit 6) was opened by hand after the others were finished, but it could not be completed by the end of the testing period. This was not considered a handicap as the other five squares (three of which were in the same vicinity) provided the answers we sought on cultural remains. All of the test units were backfilled and leveled with a small bulldozer.

The cultural strata in the test squares were mostly removed by shoveling out each entire stratum as a unit. Artifacts observed during this cleaning were handpicked and bagged. Column samples were taken out of two of the test squares for eventual water processing through 1 mm screen, while the rest of the dirt from the cultural strata was stockpiled for processing through 6.4 mm screen. The base of the lowest cultural stratum was cleaned with shovels, hoes, and trowels to search for evidence pertaining to settlement pattern. Potential features found by this method were mapped and cross-sectioned to determine whether they were of cultural or natural origins. When a feature was determined to be cultural in origin one-half of it was removed for flotation. After the other half was profiled a soil sample was collected and the remaining portion of the feature was troweled through to remove any obvious cultural remains.

As the water level in the Red River was low, there was no place convenient to 3LA128 to waterscreen the hand-excavated soil. Previous experience in the testing of 3LA97 had shown dry screening to be too slow given local soil conditions. Therefore, a waterscreening and flotation processing station was reestablished at 3LA97, and a pickup truck was used to haul the soil to the processing station. After two days devoted exclusively to this processing the excavated soil from five 2 m squares had all been screened through 6.4 mm mesh, along with one remaining sample from a 3 m square at 3LA97. The column samples and flotation samples were brought back to Fayetteville for reduction in the laboratory, and these have not yet been completed.

The site was mapped using a theodolite, stadia rod, and tapes. A point was established on the revetment bank on the west side of the site as 100S 100E. This placed the entire site area within a single grid quadrant. As the brush was often thick, some of the trenches and historic features in the woods were of necessity mapped by shooting string transects, and then measuring off of those transects to the desired location. The entire grid was tied to an absolute mean sea level elevation using the benchmark (T.B.M. 63+63.7) on the marked tree along the edge of the right-of-way. Surface elevations in undisturbed areas varied between 68.7 and 69.7 m above sea level, a contour variation of only 1.3 m at most. Thus, the site area shows as a featureless location on the 1975 U.S. Geological Survey quadrangle of the area, which has a contour of 1.5 m. Iron rebar stakes were sunk below the surface at S100 E185, the eastern corners of Test Unit 4, the western corners of Test Unit 5, and at S125 E185 to provide relocation points for any further research. These points were tied into a Corps of Engineers survey marker on top of the abandoned small levee (P.I. 860+64.97).

A temporary field laboratory was established at the Arkansas Archeological Survey station on the Southern Arkansas University campus in Magnolia while the test excavations were underway. The handpicked artifacts and the bulk of the waterscreened material were sorted and cataloged there. The remainder has been returned to the Fayetteville laboratory for completion of processing and analyses.

Site Limits

The excavations showed that the aboriginal occupants and the earlier of the two historic occupations had been situated on a rise that tapered off to the east and west along the revetment edge. The site extended for approximately 285 m along the revetment and went beyond the edge of the right-of-way for a rough north-south dimension of 150 m. Beyond the edge of the right-of-way the site was truncated by early twentieth century construction of the levee system that still protects the floodplain. Several sherds were found eroding out of the bank of the borrow area that faces the large levee, marking this destroyed edge of the site. On the far side of the levee another site, 3LA134, found by John Miller in the summer of 1980, may have been on the same rise on which 3LA128 is located. As noted above, on the east side of the site a levee, brick pile, and collapsed metal windmill marked the location of the most recent historic occupation (Figure 6).

Stratigraphy

Twelve different soil strata were identified across the site (Table 1). These strata helped define the geomorphology of the site area, and the distribution of the historic and prehistoric occupations across it. The strata consisted of sands, silts, and clays, all either flood or backswamp deposits. These strata were similar to those found at 3LA97. No single stratigraphic profile was typical of the entire site, although the bulk of the site area has a general profile of a modern humus (Stratum 2) overlying light colored sands laid down, almost certainly, in the 1927 flood (Stratum 5). This flood layer covers the aboriginal occupation strata (Strata 6, 7, and/or 8, or a combination 6/7/8). The aboriginal occupation was underlain by a red clay (Stratum 9) that graded into a red silty clay (Stratum 10). Table 2 shows the distribution of the different soil strata across the site in each excavated provenience. By comparing these profiles across the site a general picture of site geomorphology became apparent.

The aboriginal occupations were once concentrated on a natural elevation in the Red River floodplain, most likely a point bar near the axis of a meander bend. This point bar trended roughly north to south. To the east and west the point bar sloped off (more abruptly on the west; Figure 9a) and the aboriginal occupations conformed to these contours. The point bar also sloped off slightly to the south (Figure

Table 1. 3LA128 Stratigraphic Summary

Stratum	Description	Munsell Soil Color*	Age Range interpretation (All dates A.D.)
1	Sand	7.5YR 5/4 Brown	1980 construction disturbance
2	Silt loam	10YR 3/1 to 10 YR 3/3 Very dark grayish brown to very dark gray	post 1930 humus
3	Sand (bedded)	7.5YR 4/4 & 7.5YR 4/6 Brown/dark brown & light brown	1928-1930 flood deposit
4	Sandy silt	10YR 6/4 Light yellow brown 7.5YR 4/4 Brown/dark brown	1928-1930 humus or flood deposit
5	Sand, silty sand	7.5YR 4/4 & 7.5 YR 4/6 Brown/dark brown & light brown	1927 flood deposit
6	Silty loam with clay inc.	5YR 3/3 dark reddish brown	1500-1927 midden
6/7/8	Silty loam	10YR 3/1 Very dark gray	1000-1927 midden
7	Silty clay loam	10YR 3/2 Very dark grayish brown	1000-1927 midden
8	Silt loam	10YR 3/1 Very dark gray	1000-1927 midden
9	Clay, silty clay	5YR 3/4 Dark reddish brown	pre 1000 point bar deposit
10	Silt	5YR 4/6 Yellowish red	pre 1000 point bar deposit
11	Hard sand	7.5YR 5/6 Strong brown	pre 1000 point bar deposit
12	Silty sand	7.5YR 4/4 Brown/dark brown	pre 1000 flood deposit

* Main matrix color (does not include mottling or bedding)

		Table 2. 3LA128 Stratigraphic Columns	
Provenience		Strata: Top to Bottom of Excavation*	
BHT #1, seg.	1	2, 3, 5, 7, 12, 9	
"	" 2	2, 3, 5, 7, 9	
"	" 3	2, 9, 10	
"	" 4	2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10	
"	" 5	2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	
"	" 6	1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	
"	" 7	2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10	
"	" 8	2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	
"	" 9	2, 5, 7, 9, 10	
"	" 10	2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10	
"	" 11	2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10	
"	" 12	1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 9	
"	" 13	1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 9	
"	" 14	3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11	
"	" 15	1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11	
BHT #2, seg.	1	2, 5, 6/7/8, 9, 10	
"	" 2	2, 5, 6/7/8, 9, 10	
"	" 3	2, 5, 6, 8, 9	
"	" 4	2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11	
BHT #3, seg.	1	2, 5, 6/7/8, 9, 10	
BHT #4, seg.	1	2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10	
"	" 2	2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10	
"	" 3	2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10	
"	" 4	2, 5, 6/7/8, 9, 10	
BHT #5, seg.	1	2, 5, 7, 8, 9	
"	" 2	2, 5, 7, 8, 9	
"	" 3	2, 5, 7, 8, 9	
"	" 4	2, 5, 7, 8, 9	
BHT #6, seg.	1	1, 5, 6/7/8, 9, 10, 11	
"	" 2	1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10	
"	" 3	2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10	
"	" 4	2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10	
Test Unit 1		2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	
Test Unit 2		2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	
Test Unit 3		2, 5, 6/7/8, 9	
Test Unit 4		2, 5, 7, 8, 9	
Test Unit 5		2, 5, 7, 8, 9	

*See Table 1 for strata descriptions.

BHT = Backhoe transect

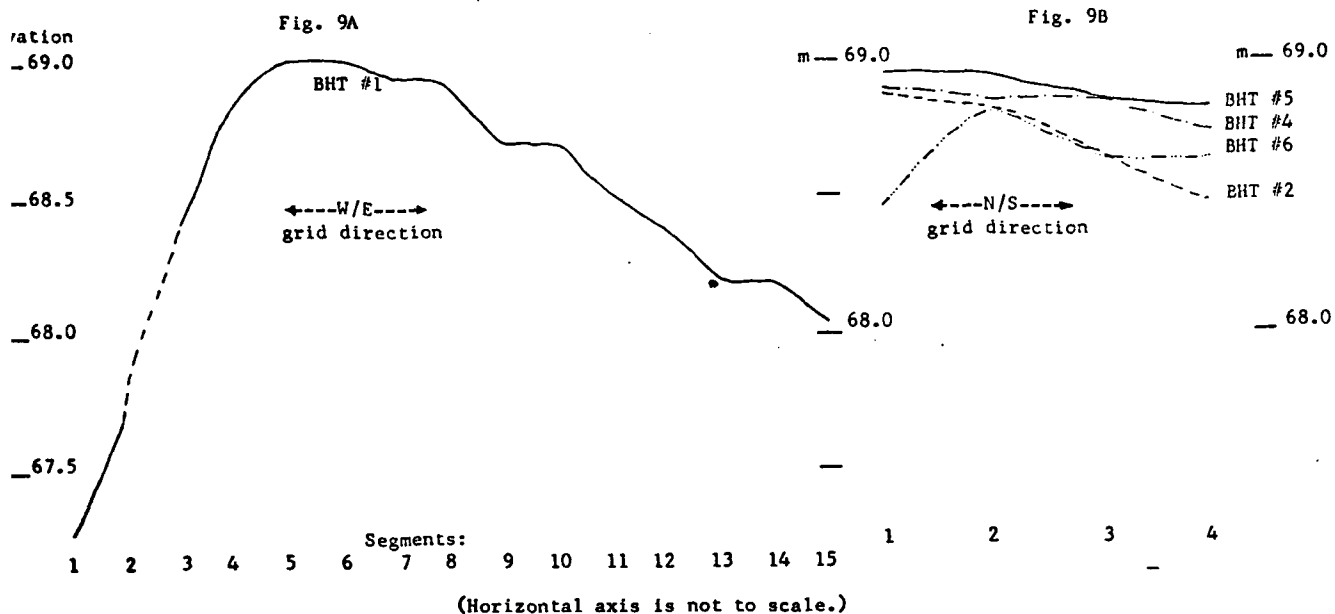


Figure 9. Profiles of the elevation of the midden surface across 3LA128. Elevations taken from the center of each backhoe trench segment.



Figure 10. Floor plan of test unit 1 at the surface of stratum 8, showing plow scars intrusive from stratum 7, looking southwest

9b). As at Cedar Grove the steeper west bank may indicate that the water source for the aboriginal occupants was in a slough on that side of the point bar.

As demonstrated by a mixture of historic debris in the upper strata containing prehistoric material, and plow scars found intruding from Stratum 7 into Stratum 8 in Test Unit 1 (Figure 10), a historic occupation disturbed the upper levels of aboriginal occupation, following the same natural contours used by the Native Americans. All of these occupations were buried beneath deposits of sand laid down by the 1927 flood, except for a very small area along the very highest part of the point bar (Figure 11) where the sand was not found. However, the 1927 flood did not completely fill in the lower areas on the extreme east and west sides of the site and later floods covered those deposits (Figure 12). Some of the profiles showed that sand from the recent revetment construction had been deposited on top of the humus.

The distribution of historic versus prehistoric artifacts in different strata reflects the accretion of flood deposits on the site (Table 3). The disturbed construction areas (Stratum 1) and the humus (Stratum 2) contained the more recent twentieth century occupation, which conformed to the modern land surface rather than the old rise on which the other components were found. While Stratum 4 and the junction between Strata 5 and 6 did yield several pieces of metal, these items are interpreted as having their origins either in Strata 2 or 6. Strata 3 and 4 were essentially sterile of any cultural remains.

Starting with Stratum 6 and down through Stratum 8 there was aboriginal material present. Sometimes only one or two of these midden bearing layers were found; in places all three were present, and elsewhere they could not be distinguished so a single aboriginal artifact bearing zone was designated at Stratum 6/7/8. As the amount of aboriginal material recovered in Stratum 6 alone was very small (6 g of lithic material and two sherds), that stratum could be a thin midden or else a reworking by either natural and/or cultural means of Stratum 7 below it. Stratum 7 and Stratum 8 were the principal aboriginal occupation zones, with the upper strata representing a plowzone disturbance of the original midden below it. The earlier of the two historic occupations was located in Stratum 7, with only a minor amount of historic material (a piece of synthetic material and a slag fragment) intruding into Stratum 8. The thickness of the aboriginal artifact bearing strata in the profiles varied from 9 to 47 cm across the site, averaging 26 cm. The 1980 estimates of the site's thickness 91.3 m) had been exaggerated by the effect of erosion down the revetment face of surface debris. Although not all of the test units produced artifacts, midden strata were found in every test except backhoe Transect 1, Trench 3, where there was the possibility that construction activity might have obscured or removed the occupation zone near the top of the old point bar.

Table 3. 3LA128 artifact provenience by strata

Stratum:	Class of Material	Sorted by:														*			
		Ct.	Wt.	Chipped Stone	Ground/Polished Stone	Flks/Shatter Bk. frag.	Lithics	Misc.	Floral	Animal Products	Glass	Euramerican Ceramics	Brick	Metal	Synthetic	Slag	Concrete	Burnt Clay	Raw Clay
Surface		382		44	2	411	333	2	65	8	3	1468	71			119	3	68	
Stratum 2														4					
Stratum 4												1		1					
Stratum 6	2					5	1			1				14		1			
Stratum 6/7/8	540	11	9			286	58	4	109	40			257	76	1	16			
Stratum 7	770	86	17	1	1	208	60	2	2	4	1		35	41					
Strata 7/8	3		2			21													
Stratum 8	433	183	14	1	1	252.5	52	5.5	1						1				
40 cm down (ST 2)						1													
Feature 1	4																		
Feature 4	1																		
Feature 5 north	1							1											
Feature 5 south	2																		
Feature 6																			19
Post mold 5			2																
Post Mold 6	3		1			18													
Post mold 7	2																		
Total:	2143	280	89	4	4	1205.5	504	14.5	177	53	5	1760	207	2	137	3	68	19	

* All weights are in g.

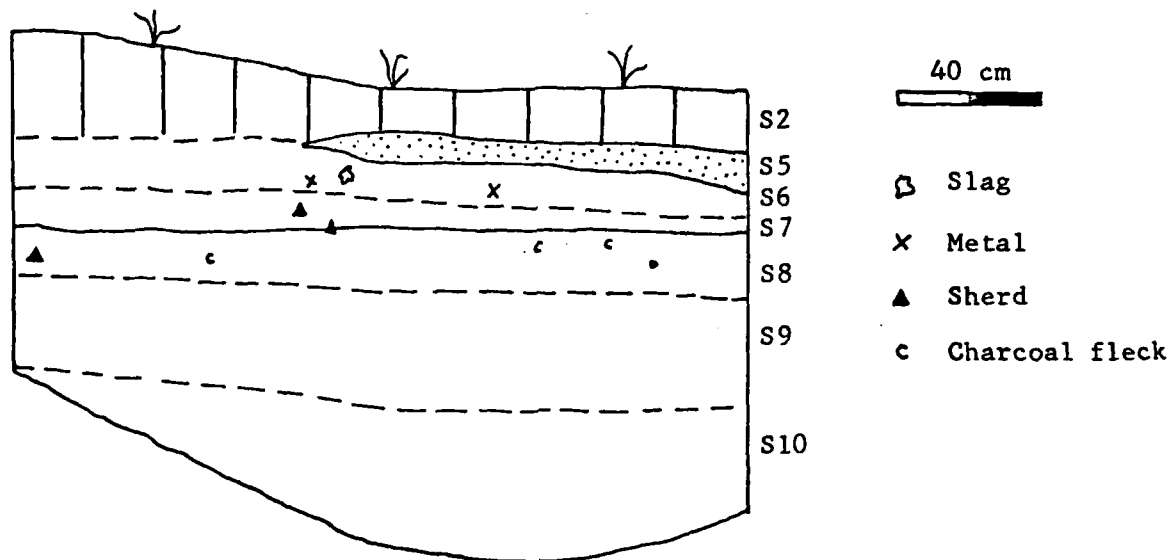


Figure 11. North profile of backhoe transect #1, segment 5.
See Table 1 for strata descriptions.

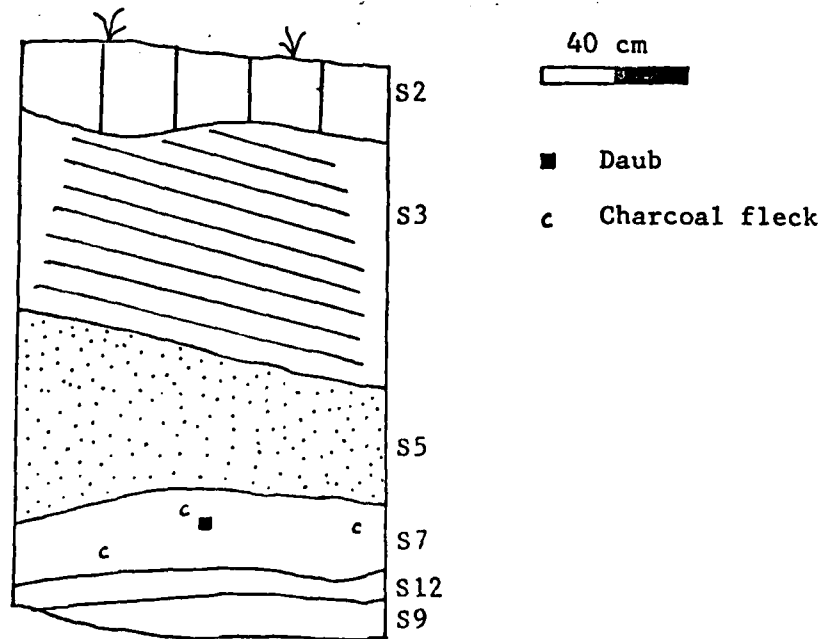


Figure 12. North profile of backhoe transect #1, segment 1.
See Table 1 for strata descriptions.

Settlement Pattern

In addition to the levee, brick fall from the chimney of a house, and the collapsed windmill, the most recent historic occupation was also marked by parallel rows of domestic spring flowers. These flowers probably lined a pathway that led to a doorway on the old house. No evidence of settlement pattern was found associated with the buried historic occupation in Strata 6 and 7, other than the plow scars that intruded from Stratum 7 into Stratum 8.

A total of 14 features were recorded which have been attributed to aboriginal construction. They were designated in the field as postmolds or general features on the basis of visual interpretation. The postmold designation was given to features with the more rounded bottom profiles (although there was one exception, Postmold 5, see Figure 17). In some cases, profiling revealed a diameter at the top of the feature that was larger than that dimension as seen in floor plan. One postmold was found in the profile of backhoe Transect 2, Trench 1 (Figure 13). The rest of the postmolds were recorded in the test square excavations. Postmold 2 was found in Test Unit 2, Postmolds 3, 4, 5, and 6 were found in Test Unit 4, and Postmolds 7, 8, and 9 were found in Test Unit 5. Feature 1 was found in the profile of Transect 1, Trench 7 (Figure 14), Features 2, 4, and 5 north and south in Test Unit 2 (Figure 15), and Feature 6 in Test Unit 4 (Figure 16). Feature 3 in Transect 5, Trench 1 was determined to be the remains of a tree fall or some other natural disturbance. Feature 2 may also have been a natural disturbance.

All these features extended from the base of Stratum 8 into the sterile subsoil, except for Postmold 1, which descended from a 6/7/8 stratum. This clearly demonstrated that the base of Stratum 8 was an undisturbed cultural level with extant settlement pattern. The postmolds or basins were generally shallow, between 6 and 22 cm deep, except for Postmold 1 (32 cm deep) and 16 to 45 cm in diameter.

Although two of the test units containing these features were contiguous, the short term nature of the testing project did not permit any additional excavation to further define the area in which these features lay (i.e., to search for structure patterns). These features were concentrated on the higher elevations of the aboriginal site surface.

The flotation samples have not yet been processed from these features, but cultural remains were handpicked from several of the features (Table 3). Wood charcoal radiocarbon samples were recovered from both Postmold 1 and Feature 6. These samples have not been assayed yet. Ceramics were found in Features 1, 4, 5 north and south, and Postmolds 6 and 7. These sherds were all grog or bone-tempered and were probably from Caddo I-II vessels (see below). Lithics were found in Features 4 and 5 north, and Postmolds 5, 6, and 7. This included the largest biface tools found on the site (see below).

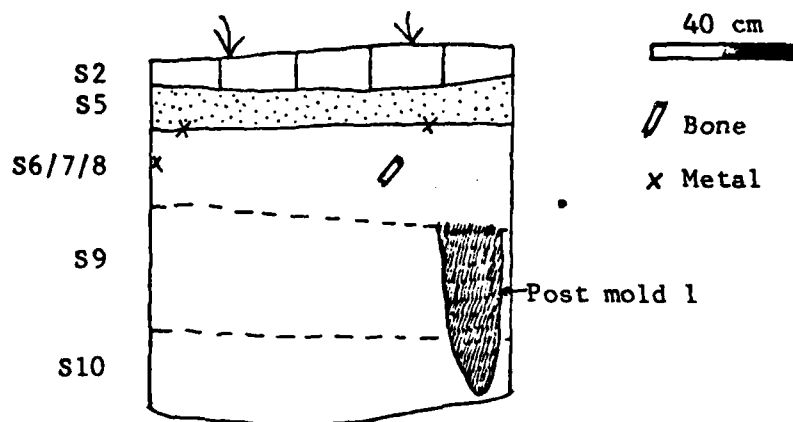


Figure 13. West profile of backhoe transect #2, segment 1.
See Table 1 for strata descriptions.

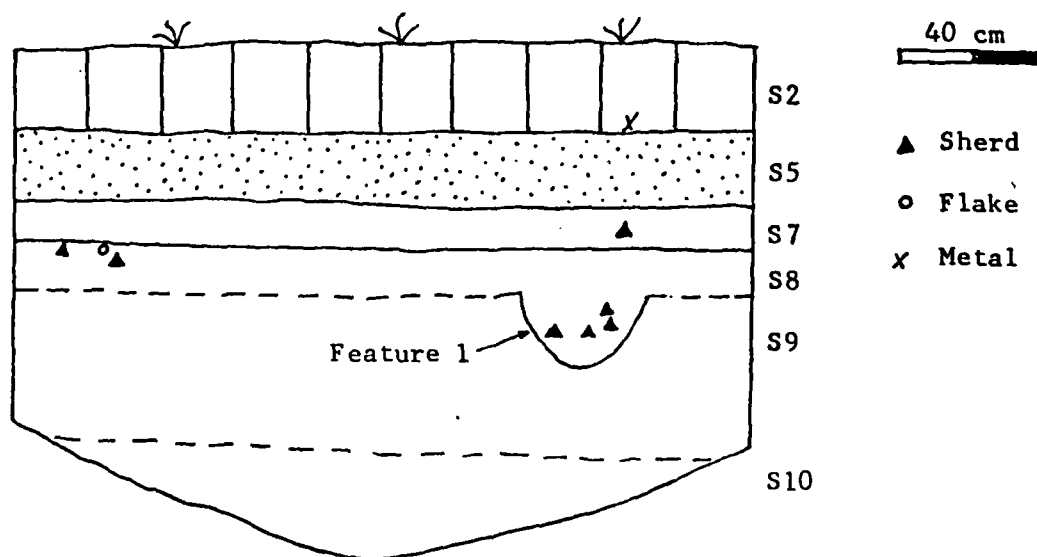


Figure 14. North profile of backhoe transect #1, segment 7.
See Table 1 for strata descriptions.

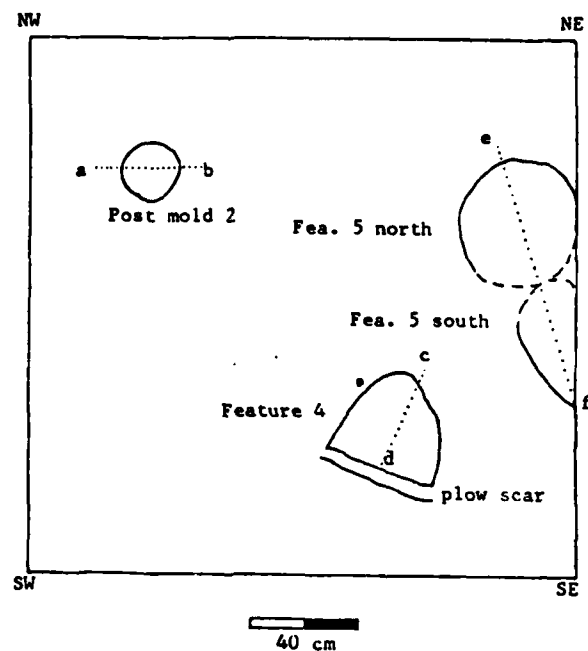


Figure 15. Floor plan of test unit 2.
Elevation ca. 68.71 m.

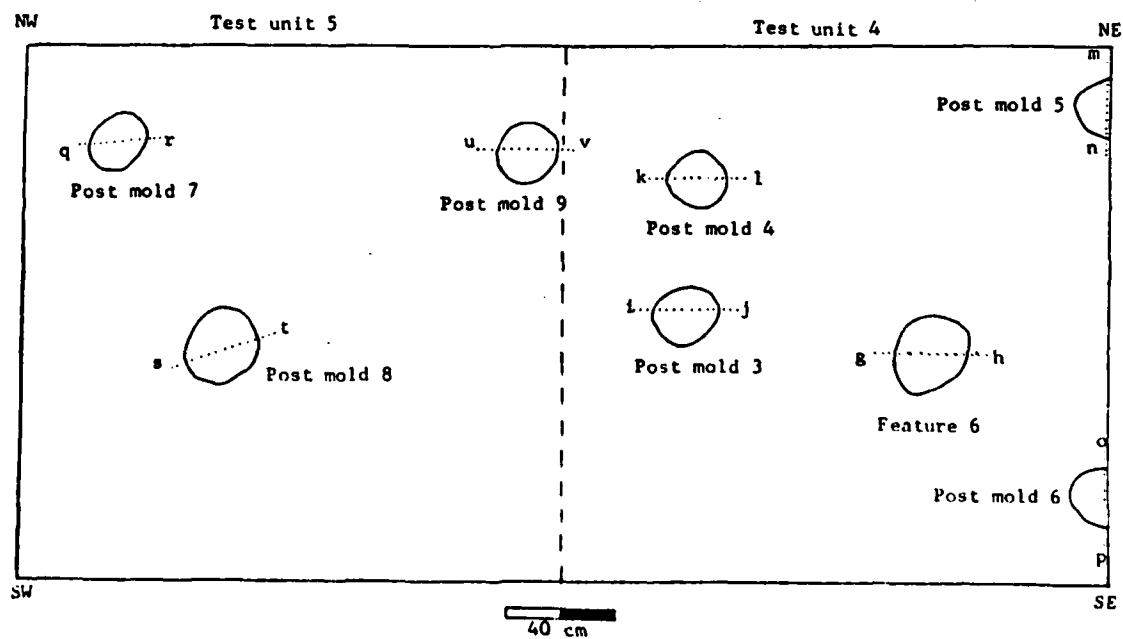


Figure 16. Floor plan of test units 4 and 5.
Elevation ca. 68.50 m.

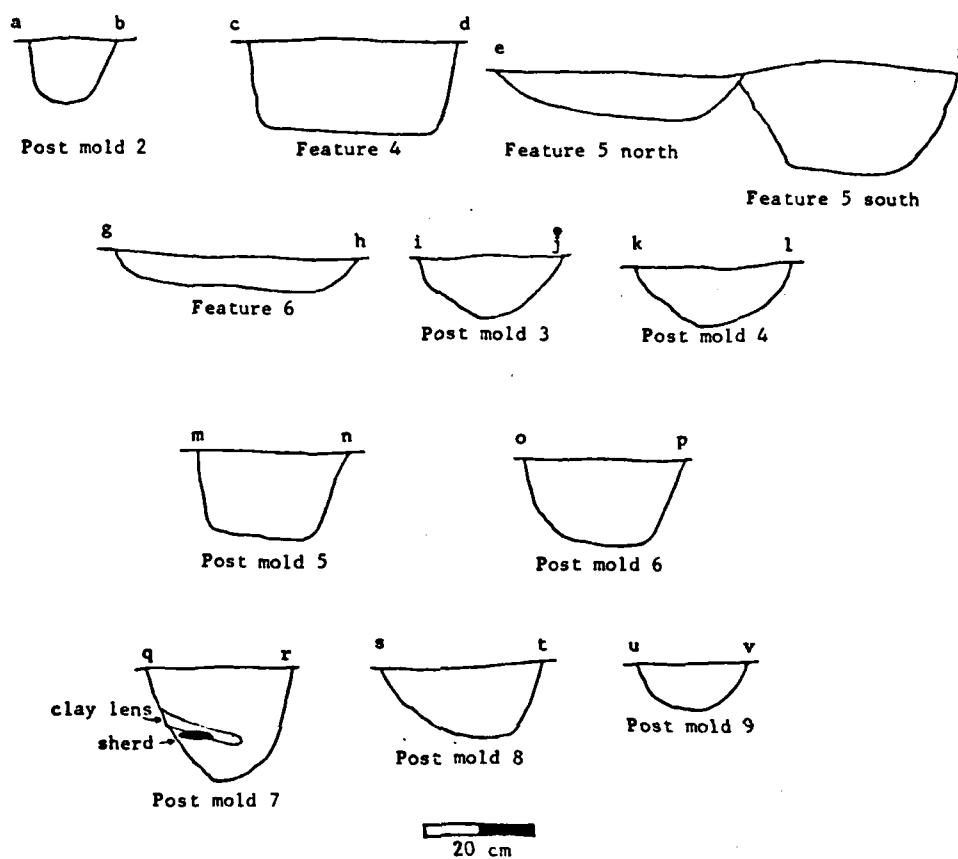


Figure 17. Examples of feature profiles.

Chapter 3 THE COLLECTIONS

As the processing of the flotation and column samples is not complete at this time, final totals on the different categories of cultural remains are not available, and any statistical manipulation of the data would be subject to change. Hence, the summary that follows is largely descriptive, focusing primarily on artifacts that provide information on cultural affiliation and age association. Different artifact summaries by count or weight are found in Tables 3, 4, 5, and 6. A more complete description and analysis will be included in the final report on 3LA97 that is being prepared for submission to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1982.

Historic Material

With the exception of a Lincoln 1918D penny, which was found in Stratum 6/7/8 of Test Unit 3, no diagnostic historic artifacts were found in the investigation at 3LA128. This penny, however, established the twentieth century nature of the earlier historic occupation. This was confirmed from the same provenience by two clear glass fragments from the rim of a bottle that has a mold seam extending over the lip; such features on molded bottles did not come into common use until after 1902, when the automatic bottle making machine was patented. None of the historic artifacts gave any indication of being earlier than the late 1800s in origin.

Metal was the most common historic artifact recovered in the excavations. Bits of wire (plain and barbed), machine parts (threaded bolts and plates), strapping, a horseshoe, chain fragments, unidentifiable scraps, common wire nails, and a the blade of a hoe were collected. Large bolted machinery parts, typical of twentieth century farm manufacturing prior to the common use of welding, were left at the

site where they were found on the surface. The hoe blade was from backhoe Transect 1, Trench 3, in the humus. It has the eye method of handle attachment rather than the more recent socket style. Of some 37 nails only one might be a cut nail, but it was rusted too badly to be distinguished clearly.

Bricks were readily observed in the fallen chimney pile, but again these were not collected. One nearly complete brick was collected from the surface of backhoe Transect 4, Trench 4. It had a very sandy texture, like all of the other bricks observed, and was molded rather than hand-formed. Bits of mortar still clung to one broad surface and one edge. The brick was 6 cm thick, 10.2 cm wide, and was shortened by intentional breakage.

Glass was the second most common historic debris, most of it being from clear or brown glass bottles. One bottle neck besides the one already mentioned was found in the 1980 surface collection; it also had the mold seam running over the lip showing a post-1902 date of manufacture. Window glass recovered from Stratum 6/7/8 in Test Unit 3 ranged between 1.75 and 2.5 mm in thickness; this is thicker than most nineteenth century window glass and is therefore interpreted as evidence of modern plate glass manufacturing techniques. One jar rim found in the surface collection on the revetment bank in 1981 had a threaded rim, an indication of a post-1850 origin for that piece.

Pieces of Euramerican ceramics were relatively rare finds in the surface collections and excavated samples. Only five sherds have been found thus far. Two in the 1980 collection included a piece of earthenware with a white hard glaze (often called ironstone by archeologists) and another piece of earthenware or stoneware that was hard to distinguish as it appeared to have been burned. Two pieces of stoneware were found in the 1981 research. One, from the surface of the revetment bank, had a Bristol slip on both the interior and exterior surfaces. The other stoneware sherd was a thick rim that had an interior and exterior dark brown Albany slip except on the very rim lip and a molded shelf. It had a shallow molded design, and is identical to a sherd recently found on 3AR70, a site identified as an early twentieth century occupation on Grand Prairie Terrace overlooking Big Island Chute (Research Institute 1979:7-7). The last Euramerican sherd found in 1981 was recovered in backhoe Transect 6, Trench 2, Stratum 2; it was a white glazed undecorated earthenware fragment, another typical ironstone sherd.

Besides slag and concrete, the only other man-made products found in the historic occupation were two pieces of scrap plastic (see under synthetic in tables). The rare occurrence of plastic fragments is possibly another indication of early twentieth century historic occupation, as plastic did not come into common use (bottle tops, toys, etc.) until after World War I.

Soil Samples

A total of 41 soil samples were collected from the different strata and features encountered on the site. These samples will be studied for pH, organic content, and several other chemicals at the Soil Testing and Research Laboratory of the Agronomy Department, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. The results of these studies will be incorporated into the final report with 3LA97 and the soil samples collected there.

Floral Remains

Vegetal remains were recovered in limited amounts in the surface and excavated collections on 3LA128. Additional remains are expected to be recovered from the flotation and column samples when they are processed. Full analysis of the floral remains will be done by expert staff at the Illinois State Museum along with the vegetal material from 3LA97. It is noted that several cultigens were recovered along with wild plant material (Figure 18). The floral remains included corn cobs (1980 surface collection), seeds, a possible bean, and nut shell fragments (all from Stratum 8 in Test Unit 4).

Animal Products

Although the amount of animal bone and shell recovered was very small, preservation appeared to be excellent. Only three pieces of mussel shell have been found thus far. These remains will also be analyzed by Illinois State Museum personnel who are studying the remains from 3LA97.

Daub and Clay

A small concentration of daub fragments was found in Test Units 4 and 5 (Table 5). The daub and its association with the features in Test Units 4 and 5 may indicate that a prehistoric structure once stood in the vicinity, if not at that location. Feature 6 in Test Unit 4 also contained a small amount of clay.

Lithics

The lithic debris is being sorted into several initial categories prior to analysis. Chipped stone material includes cores and recognizable worked tools, which are counted in the tables. Flakes and shatter from manufacturing are grouped together and weighed, as are miscellaneous lithics (mostly unmodified river cobbles) that do not fall into these two prior categories or among ground or pecked stone tool

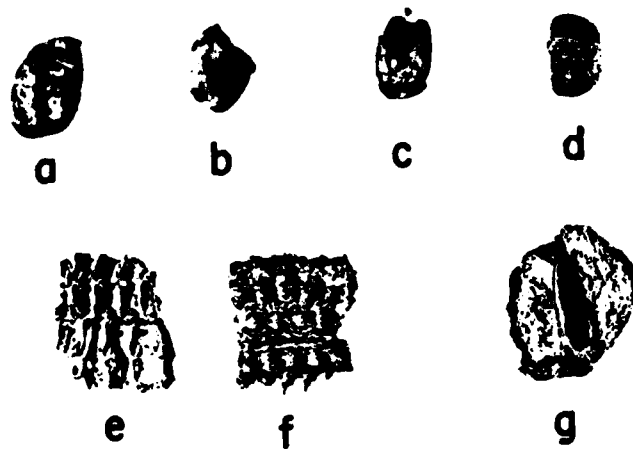


Figure 18. Botanical remains from 3LA128. (a-c) seeds, (d) bean, (e-f) corn cobs, (g) nut shell.

fragments. The miscellaneous lithics are weighed while the ground/pecked stone is counted.

A total of 23 bifaces have been identified thus far among the chipped stone debris. Ten of these may be projectile points or fragments of them (Figure 19). These points were typed using the Oklahoma Anthropological Society identification guides (Bell 1958, 1960; Perino 1968, 1971). Except for one base that might be part of a Gary point (from Test Unit 5, Stratum 8; Figure 19a), the rest of the points are most certainly arrowheads or were intended to be such tools. The arrowheads included an Alba or Bonham point of white chert (Test Unit 5, Stratum 7; Figure 19b), a Scallorn point made out of a quartz crystal (from Test Unit 3, Stratum 6/7/8, Figure 19c), a broken Halkell point of gray chert which has potlidd fractures from heating (found in Test Unit 4, Stratum 7; Figure 19d), a possibly unfinished Fresno or Mississippi triangle of yellow ochre chert (Test Unit 5, Stratum 8; Figure 19e), two triangular arrowhead fragments of very thin gray chert (Test Unit 2, Stratum 6/7/8; Figure 19f-g), and two arrowheads too broken to complete an identification; one is a corner-notched piece of white novaculite (from the 1980 surface collection; Figure 19g), and the other is a piece of a stemmed point made out of red chert (from Test Unit 2, Stratum 6/7/8; Figure 19i).

The Alba, Scallorn, and Gary points have been associated with Caddo I and Caddo II occupations, while triangular forms tend to be from later Caddo sites (although some triangular arrowheads, such as the Reed type, are found during the early Caddo periods) (Wyckoff 1974). These point types are consistent with the ceramic types in their assigned time periods (see below).

Among the other biface tools, were various small tool fragments (Figure 20), including a drill made from yellow ochre colored chert (Test Unit 4, Stratum 7, Figure 20j), and the large pink/gray novaculite biface tip found in Postmold 5 in Test Unit 4 (Figure 20k).

The lithic debris recovered on 3LA128 is predominantly from chert cobbles found on the sand and gravel bars of the Red River channel. Even the novaculite whose source is ultimately in the Ouachita Mountains, may have been obtained in cobble form from the gravel bars. A sample of the general matrix on one of these bars, plus an assortment of miscellaneous chert and nonsilicious stones were collected just over a kilometer downstream from 3LA128 to provide some control on the kinds of materials and their size range from such sources. Comparison of these samples to the kinds of debris found on 3LA128 and 3LA97 may provide information on lithic preferences and manufacturing techniques as further analyses are completed. Other than chert only small amounts of novaculite, limestone, sandstone, silica-cemented orthoquartzite, quartz, and concretions have been found among the chipped stone, flakes and shatter, pecked or ground stone, and miscellaneous lithics. The most common nonchert lithic is novaculite, and after final tabulation it

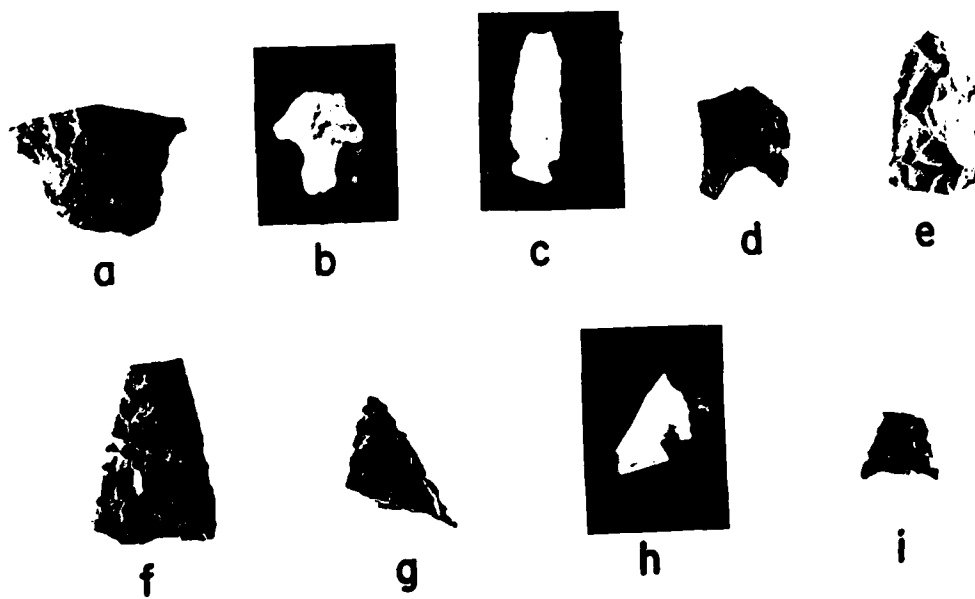


Figure 19. Projectile points from 3LA128. (a) Gary, (b) Alba or Bonham, (c) Scallorn, (d) Haskell, (e) Fresno or Mississippi triangle, (f-g) triangle fragments, (h) corner notched fragment, (i) stemmed point fragment.



Figure 20. Examples of bifaces from 3LA128. (a-e) unidentified bifaces, (f) possible drill tip, (g-h) possible point fragments, (i) graver on a reworked biface, (j) drill, (k) biface tip made out of novaculite.

will probably represent less than a quarter of the lithic sample. Very few possible fragments of pecked or ground stone tools were recovered; a piece of sandstone and one of silica-cemented orthoquartzite were found in the 1980 surface collection, and two pieces of sandstone were recovered in Test Unit 5, one each in Stratum 7 and Stratum 8.

Aboriginal Ceramics

Thus far 1,616 sherds have been studied from the 1981 testing at 3LA128. Of these, 1,101 were 6.4 mm or less in size and they were excluded from analysis as being too small to give reliable information on surface finish, decoration and tempering agents. There are additional ceramics, both decorated and plain that have yet to be studied, but the bulk of the ceramics have been assessed.

The 515 sherds larger than 6.4 mm were classified according to three temper categories (grog, bone, and shell), two ware categories (coarse and fine), four vessel part categories (rim, rim-body sherds, base sherds, and sherds--the latter category containing specimens that could have been from any part of the vessel), and 16 surface finish categories (see Table 5).

Only 17 sherds could be classified into types with a reasonable degree of certainty. The types present are Crockett Curvilinear Incised or Pennington Punctated-Incised (two sherds with tool punctuation and one with ring punctuation; Figure 21a-c), Hickory Engraved (two bottle sherds; Figure 21d-e), Handy Engraved (one sherd; Figure 21f), Hardy Incised (one sherd; Figure 21c), Pease Brushed-Incised (one rim-body sherd; Figure 21h), Sinner Linear Punctated (five sherds; Figure 22a-e), and Foster Trailed-Incised (one shell-tempered slash punctated rim sherd; Figure 22f).

Other types whose presence is suggested by sherds in various descriptive categories are: Bossier Brushed (possibly some of the 31 grog- or bone-tempered brushed sherds; Figure 22g-e), Hollyknowe Ridge-Pinched (possibly some of the six ridge-pinched sherds; Figure 23a-c), Haley Complicated-Incised (possibly some of the nine punctated-incised coarse ware sherds; Figure 23d-i), and Evansville Punctated (possibly some of the 18 fingernail-punctated sherds; Figure 23j-e).

The identified types Crockett Curvilinear Incised, Pennington Punctated-Incised, Hardy Incised, Pease Brushed-Incised, Sinner Linear Punctated, Hickory Engraved, and Handy Engraved indicate one or more occupations in the Caddo I and Caddo II periods. The tentatively identified types either fall within or overlap this time range (A.D. 1000-1400). Hollyknowe Ridge-Pinched and Evansville Punctated are good Caddo I markers and were very likely present. Bossier Brushed and Haley Complicated-Incised are both Caddo II and Caddo III types.

Table 5
3LA128 Pottery from the 1981 Test Excavations

Plain	Coarse Wares			Coarse Wares, cont.			Fine Wares		
	grog	bone	shell	Linear Punctated	grog	bone	Punctated-Incised	grog	bone
sherds	236	22	3	sherds	5	0	sherds	4	0
rim	6	0	0	rim	0	0	rim	1	0
rim-body	0	0	0	rim-body	0	0	rim-body	0	0
base	24	4	0		5			5	
	316	26	3						
Brushed				Slash-punctated			Simple-Incised/Engraved		
sherds	24	6	1	sherds	0	0	sherds	12	0
rim	0	1	0	rim	0	0	rim	1	0
rim-body	0	0	0	rim-body	0	0	rim-body	0	0
	24	7	1					13	
Brushed-appliqued				Fine tool punctation			Compound-Incised/Engraved		
sherds	4	0	0	sherds	4	1	sherds	4	0
rim	0	0	0	rim	1	0	rim	0	0
rim-body	1	0	0	rim-body	0	0	rim-body	0	0
	5				5	1		4	
Simple Incised				Fingernail Punctated			Red slipped		
sherds	47	0	0	sherds	17	0	sherds	3	0
rim	2	2	0	rim	1	0	rim	0	0
rim-body	0	0	0	rim-body	0	0	rim-body	0	0
	49	2			18	0		3	
Compound Incised				TOTAL	447	36	Red slipped/Simple Incised-Engraved		
sherds	9	0	0				sherds	0	0
rim	1	0	0				rim	1	0
rim-body	0	0	0				rim-body	0	0
	10	0	0					1	
Punctated-Incised							Plain-notched rim		
sherds	8	0	0					1	0
rim	1	0	0						
rim-body	0	0	0						
	9								
Ridge-Pinched							TOTAL	27	0
sherds	6	0	0						
rim	0	0	0						
rim-body	0	0	0						
	6								

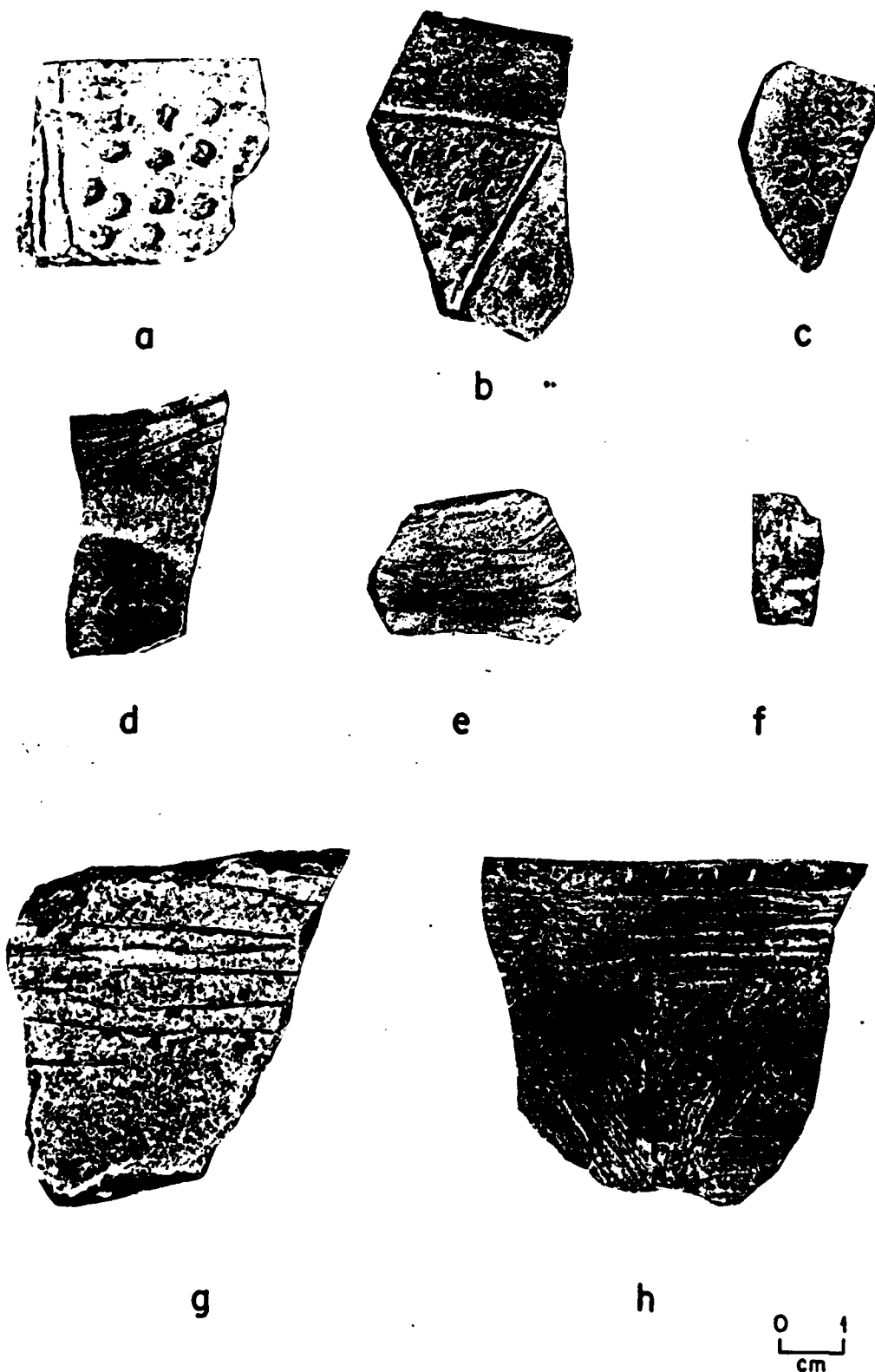


Figure 21. Typed ceramics from 3LA128. (a-b) Crockett Curvilinear Incised/Pennington Punctated Incised with tool punctation, (c) Crockett Curvilinear Incised/Pennington Punctated Incised with ring punctation, (d-e) Hickory Engraved, (f) Handy Engraved, (g) Hardy Incised, (h) Pease Brushed-Incised.

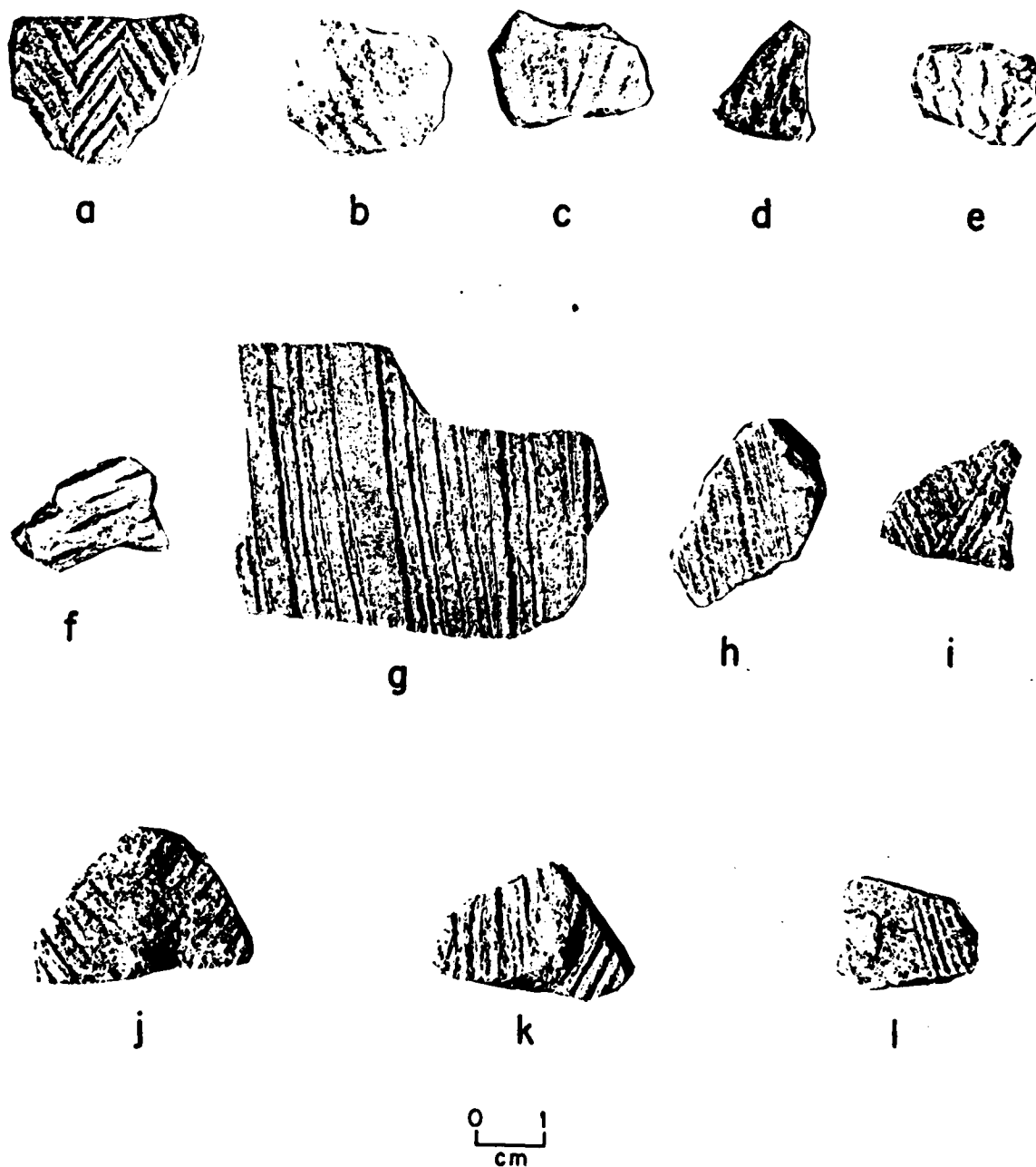


Figure 22. Typed and untyped ceramics from 3LA128. (a-e) Sinner Linear Punctated, (f) Foster Trilled-Incised, (g-i) brushed sherds, (j-10 brushed and applied sherds.

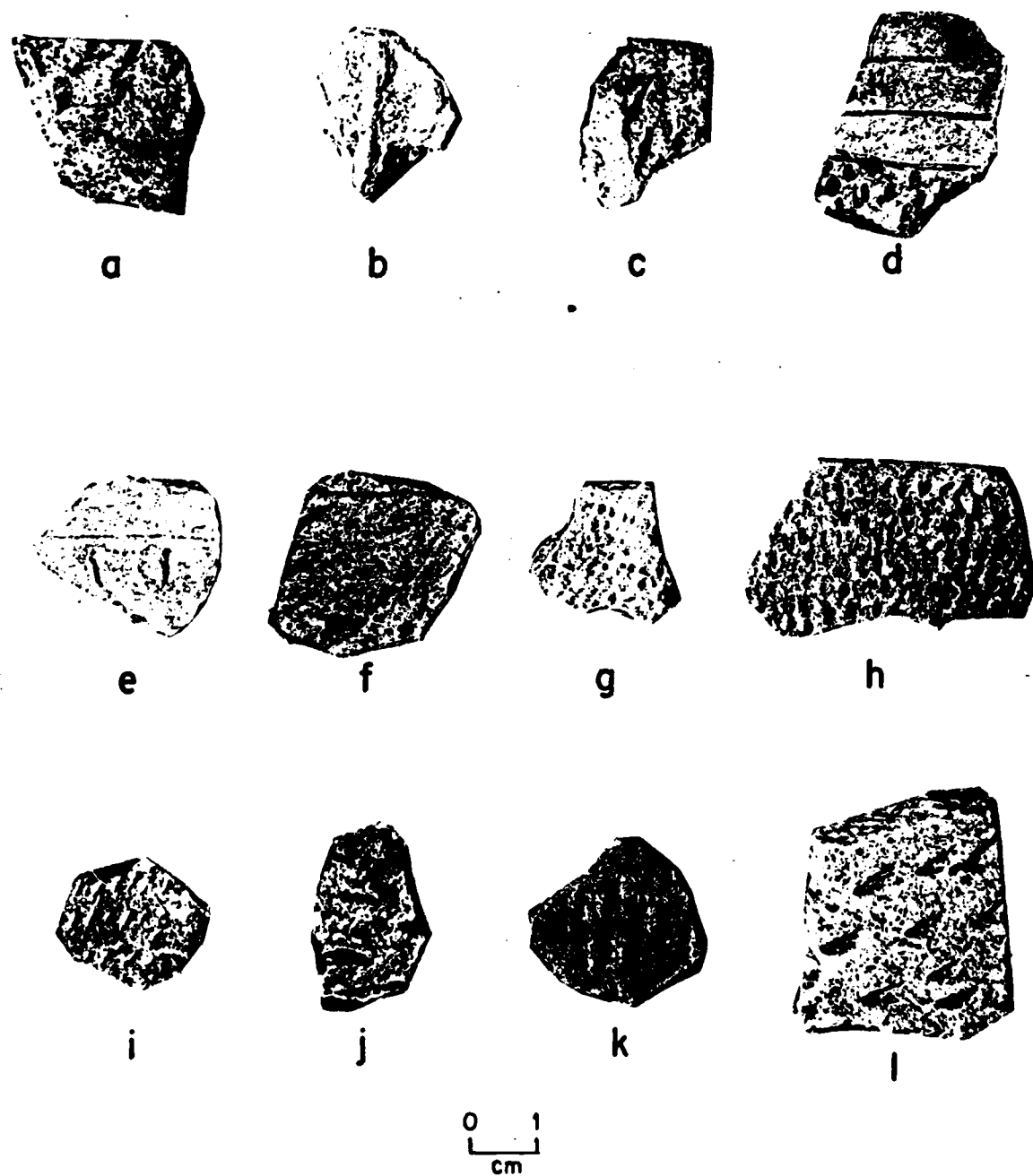


Figure 23. Untyped ceramics from 3LA128. (a-c) ridge pinched sherds, (d-f) punctated and incised sherds, (g-i) finely punctated sherds, (j-l) fingernail punctated sherds.

Temporally and culturally significant modes of surface treatment occurring in this collection are red slipping and fingernail punctation. They are good Caddo I markers, as are the three stem fragments of Red River pipes that were also collected (Figure 24a-c). The very low total of plain coarse ware rims in this collection (6) compared to the number of base sherds (24) suggests that most coarse ware vessels were decorated. This rules out the previously postulated possibility (Schambach et al. 1980) that a pre-Caddoan Fourche Maline plainware assemblage of any significant size might be hidden in the plain coarse ware collection.

A second temporally distinct Caddoan occupation is represented in this ceramic collection. There is a small Caddo IV or V period assemblage represented by one shell-tempered Foster Trailed-Incised rim sherd, three plain shell-tempered sherds, and one brushed shell-tempered sherd. Some of the grog-tempered coarse ware sherds could pertain to this assemblage also since Caddo IV and V assemblages are not 100% shell-tempered. This occupation was also represented--equally lightly--in the 1980 surface collection from the site (Table 6), which contained one grog-tempered Foster Trailed-Incised sherd, one Cowhide Stamped sherd, one brushed shell-tempered sherd, and one incised shell-tempered sherd.

The distribution of the diagnostic late Caddo sherds found in the 1981 investigations is tightly clustered within Test Unit 5, where the Foster Trailed-Incised rim sherd (Stratum 7) and the plain shell-tempered sherds were found (in both Stratum 7 and Stratum 8). Since the triangular point fragments were also found in Test Unit 5 (see above) it appears that the late Caddo occupation component may be concentrated horizontally within a relatively small part of the site, although it does appear to be mixed with the earlier Caddo components vertically.

Test Unit 5 also contained a concentration of early Caddo markers (fingernail-punctated and Hickory Engraved sherds). The other test units contained primarily early Caddo diagnostics: Test Unit 1 contained red-slipped, fingernail-punctated, and Handy Engraved sherds plus two pipestem fragments; Test Unit 2 had both fingernail-punctated and red-slipped sherds; Test Unit 3 had no diagnostic ceramics, but the Scallorn point is an earlier Caddo type; Test Unit 4 contained fingernail-punctated, red-slipped, Hickory Engraved (in Postmold 5), Hardy Incised, Pease Brushed-Incised, Sinner Linear Punctated sherds, and a pipestem fragment. Taken together, the site area around Test Units 1, 4, and 5 appears to have been the main location for both aboriginal components, based on the amounts and kinds of artifacts found in association with in situ settlement pattern evidence.

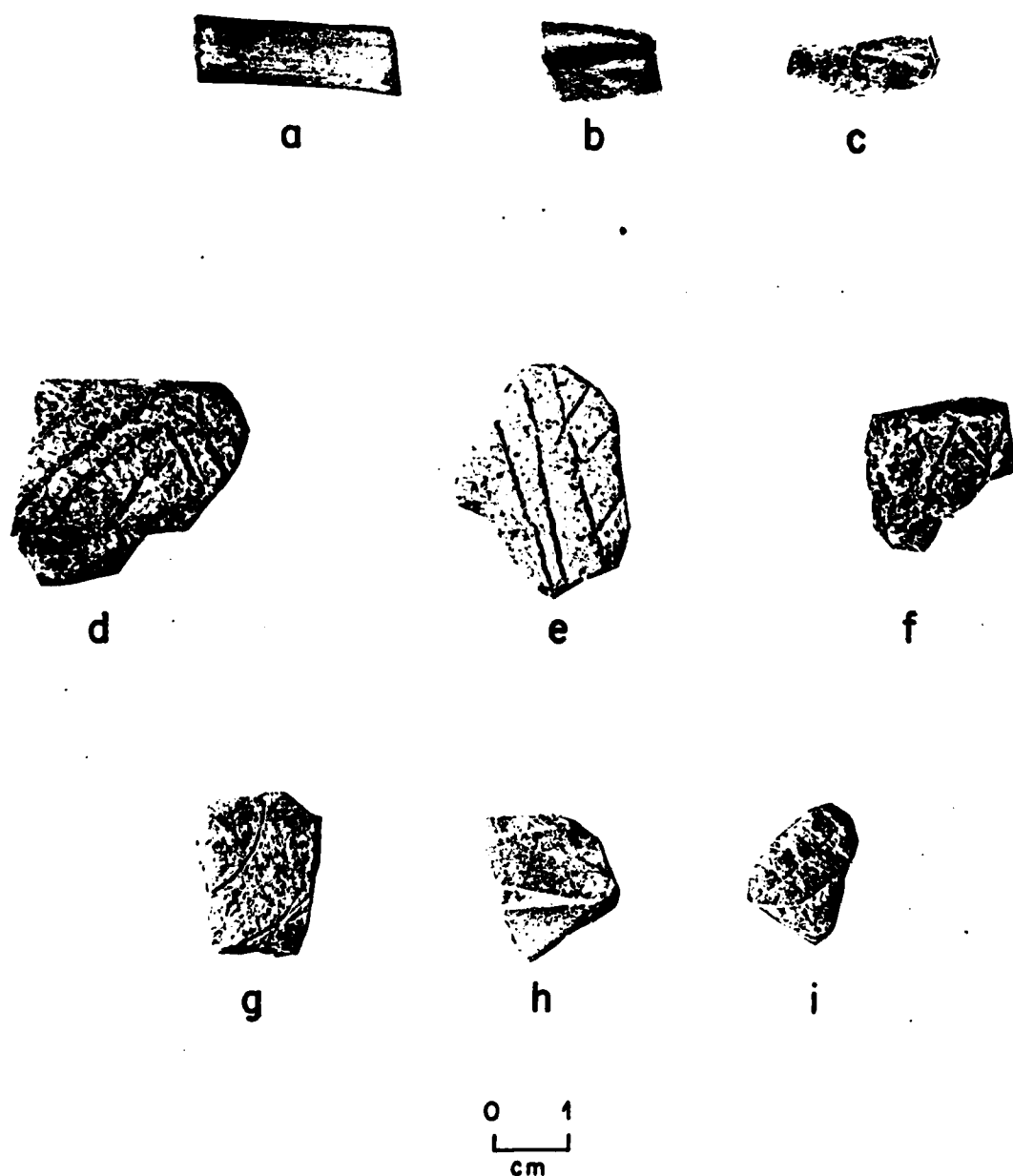


Figure 24. Red River pipe fragments and untyped sherds from 3LA128. (a-c) Red River pipe stem pieces, (d-f) compound incised coarse ware sherds, (g-i) incised/engraved fine ware sherds.

Table 6
3LA128 pottery from the 1980 surface collection

<u>Coarse Ware</u>				<u>Fine Ware</u>			
Plain	shell	grog	bone	Plain	shell	grog	bone
body	2	160	26	body		19	3
rim		5	1				
base		6					
	2	171	27	Red filmed			
				rim		1	
Brushed	1						
body		10	2	Unclassified Engraved			
rim		1		body	1	6	2
	1	11	2	rim		2	1
Foster Trailed-Incised							
neck		1					
		1					
Sinner Linear Punctated							
body		2					
		2					
Cowhide Stamped							
body		1					
		1					
Fingernail Punctated							
body		5					
rim		1	1				
		6	1				
Untyped Punctated-Incised							
body		2					
rim		1					
		3					
Untyped Curvilinear-Incised							
rim			1				
			1				
Untyped-Incised							
body	1	25	3				
rim		2					
	1	27	3				
TOTAL	4	222	34				

TOTAL 1 28 6

Pottery crumbs - 28

Chapter 4 SITE SIGNIFICANCE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Cultural Components at 3LA128

The foregoing discussion has documented the presence of two twentieth century components and two prehistoric Caddo components. Documentary research thus far has not yielded any additional information on the historic inhabitants of 3LA128. The initial and major occupation found in the testing of 3LA128 was in the Caddo I-II time range, dating somewhere between A.D. 1000-1400, most probably by people of the Caddo I Lost Prairie phase. Certain Caddo II, Haley phase, ceramic marker types are present also. The current state of our knowledge of Caddo phases and ceramics in the Great Bend region is such that we cannot say whether these indicate a separate Haley phase occupation or simply a single late Caddo I occupation, by which time the Lost Prairie phase was probably well along in its evolution into the Haley phase.

The second occupation was at least 100 to 150 years later by Caddo IV or Caddo V people (A.D. 1500-1800) of the Belcher or Chakanina phases. The small amount of pottery attributable to this time and the restricted area on the site that it was found in could indicate a very light occupation, and perhaps a settlement of some type smaller than a farmstead. But recalling that some unknown portion of the north and south ends of the site has been destroyed by revetment and levee construction, it is also possible that the late Caddo component represents spillover from a more substantial occupation in those areas.

Significance of 3LA128

While the historic components are not considered to have historic or archeological significance, both prehistoric components are. The historic components represent very recent occupations, less than 50 years old in one case, and less than 100 years in the other. Other homesteads dating to the same time period are still in use in the Great

Bend region, and scholars wishing to study the last 100 years in this area have many other resources to use for such work with more complete architectural remains and oral histories upon which to draw.

On the other hand, the aboriginal components have the potential to yield a variety of data important to solving a full range of archeological questions on regional cultural chronology, microenvironmental land use, the internal arrangement of settlements, tool kits, subsistence, and local geomorphology. The Caddo I-II component is especially significant as it is the only probable Caddo I Lost Prairie phase habitation site that has been found in the Great Bend region in Arkansas. There are only five other Caddo I sites currently on record. Three of them are mound sites: 3MI6, Crenshaw--the type site for the Lost Prairie phase; 3LR46, Bowman, a major multiple component mound group; and 3LA4, the Riverside Mound, a small single mound site that has been destroyed by land leveling. The other two sites, 3LA36 and 3LA57, both known only from old site reports turned in by avocational archeologists, were probably habitation sites similar to 3LA128, but neither one has been located on the ground. Site 3LA57 has apparently been washed away by the Red River in the 20 years since it was recorded. It may be possible to relocate 3LA36, but it is in an area that has been subject to deep plowing and possibly subsoiling and land leveling so it is not likely to be as well preserved as 3LA128, if it has survived at all.

While the Caddo IV-V component on 3LA128 appears to be much smaller than the earlier Caddo occupation, having been substantiated in only one 2 m test square, the identification of such a small area is in itself significant as such small sites, as elements in an overall late Caddo settlement system, are completely unknown at present. Unfortunately, it is mixed with the earlier Caddo material, so that identification of activities and occupation unique to the late Caddo occupants would be difficult unless additional distinct settlement pattern, or horizontally discrete areas are extant.

Nevertheless, the study of the environmental variables and similarities between 3LA128 and 3LA97, within a kilometer of each other, should reveal additional information on changes in local geomorphology and settlement adaptation over time. While there was no early Caddo occupation at 3LA97, the late components from both sites could have been related occupations by the same group of people, if not in the same family then certainly the same dispersed village of Caddo living along the fringes of the main Red River channel, as shown in the Teran expedition map of the Upper Nasoni village made in 1691-1692 (Griffith 1954:frontispiece).

Both aboriginal components can make significant contributions to an understanding of the history and evolution of Caddoan culture, particularly with the comparative data on 3LA97 now in hand. Previous to the work on 3LA97 archeological research in the Great Bend region had largely ignored Caddo occupation sites, and had concentrated on the mound centers, so our knowledge of the lifeways of the people who built the mounds is still very limited.

Excavation at 3LA128 would provide the first good evidence of early Caddo subsistence practices, to compare against the data found on 3LA97. Corn, squash, or pumpkin seeds, and perhaps bean samples were found in the limited testing, showing that evidence of horticulture is present on 3LA128. Although the animal remains recovered were few, this may be due to the tests relocating a general midden living area rather than specific garbage dumps, which were probably on the top of the rise where most of the testing was done. In any case, the bone and shell that was found was in an excellent state of preservation. Thus, 3LA128 could provide information on the specific types of cultigens in use by the early Caddo for comparison against those of Mississippian groups to the east, and on the relationship and importance of wild plant foods such as the nuts found on the site with cultivated foods.

The excellent preservation of plant and animal remains also resulted in the recovery of two wood charcoal samples suitable for radiocarbon dating, providing much needed data for firm dating of the early Caddo occupation in the Great Bend region, which until now has been largely dependent on the relative dating of ceramic assemblages identified in Louisiana and Texas (except for radiocarbon dates obtained from the Crenshaw site). This will provide the time frame needed for assessing local changes in Caddo lifeways.

The documentation of the settlement features indicates that the internal arrangement of the early Caddo occupation has been preserved on 3LA128. Again, this is a body of information that has not been adequately investigated previously and is a valuable research resource. The survival of these features could also indicate that early Caddo burials, which were often relatively deeply placed, may be intact elsewhere on 3LA128. Probing for such features was attempted, but the ground was too hard (from frost and lack of plowing) to put in an adequate search to identify such specific features within the limited time available.

The very fact of the site's burial by the 1927-1930 floods and the lack of cultivation in recent years has led to the excellent preservation of those portions of the site not destroyed by construction activities. The primary Caddo I-II occupation still possesses integrity of location and the potential to provide additional research of significance. Therefore, it is the opinion of the Arkansas Archeological Survey that 3LA128 is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Recommendations for Mitigation

The construction of the Field Revetment is now almost completed, so most of the damage to the site that this project will do has already been done, other than what will result from some construction traffic across the site to complete the revetment at 3LA97. As long as road grading is not employed the site is sufficiently deep to be unaffected by this traffic.

Although the site has been recommended as being eligible for the National Register and should be nominated through the appropriate state and federal procedures, mitigation of the project impact is no longer required for 3LA128. So long as the revetment remains intact, it will protect the remaining site area from erosion, placing a known buried site in the archeological data bank for future research.

Conclusions

Archeological testing on 3LA128 has documented the presence of two significant Caddoan occupations dating between A.D. 1000 and 1800 and buried beneath Red River flood deposits. At present 3LA128 is a unique source for research on the early Caddo inhabitants of the Great Bend region. It is now protected from further loss to construction activities or the natural destructive process of river meander erosion. The research on 3LA128, in conjunction with that on 3LA97, has conclusively demonstrated that the full range of Caddoan cultural history still lies buried beneath the sands and silts of the Red River. Future archeological researchers rather than assuming that most sites have been destroyed by the Red River will have to take this into account and adjust their research strategies to find and study these buried sites.

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